

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-06 DODE-00

INT-05 PM-04 /079 W

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R 221050Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5155

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 4063

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : BENC, PK,

SUBJECT : MAJOR PROJECTS: CHASMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

REFERENCE : STATE 093857

1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (PAEC) CHAIRMAN MUNIR KHAN APRIL 21 WITH REFERENCE TO QUESTION POSED REFTEL. KHAN REPORTED THAT TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR CHASMA HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED AND WOULD NOT BE UNTIL FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT HAD BEEN ARRANGED.

ASKED ABOUT FINANCING, KHAN ANSWERED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON WITH A FRENCH SUPPLIER, FRAMATOM (WESTINGHOUSE LICENCES) BUT WERE FAR FROM FINAL. KHAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON WITH THE GERMAN FIRM, KRAFTWERKE UNION, BUT DISCOUNTED THESE EFFORTS BECAUSE GERMANS WISHED TO SELL A 900 MEGAWATT REACTOR RATHER THAN THE 600 MEGAWATT REACTOR WHICH PAKISTAN DESIRES. HE ALSO MENTIONED ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN UNSPECIFIED JAPANESE FIRM. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE STILL HOPED TO OBTAIN HELP FROM SOME RICH MIDDLE EAST OIL COUNTRY.

2. KHAN STRESSED THAT PAKISTAN HAD TO BUILD THE CHASMA PLANT. THE COUNTRY, HE SAID, HAD NO ALTERNATIVE GIVEN ITS LIMITED HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL AND GAS RESERVES AND THE HIGH COST OF IMPORTING PETROLEUM. THE FACT THAT TUNNEL

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DIFFICULTIES AT TARBELA DAM MAY LIMIT THE NUMBER OF GENERATORS FROM TWELVE TO EIGHT ONLY MADE THIS ALL THE MORE

IMPERATIVE. HE ALSO MENTIONED A RECENT HIGH-LEVEL (ECNEC)
GOP DECISION APPROVING THE PROJECT, AND THAT THE NEW GOP
FIVE-YEAR PLAN, TO START JULY 1, 1976, INCLUDED PROVISION
FOR CHASMA.

BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA04063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760153-0625
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760435/aaaabdag.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 93857
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : MAJOR PROJECTS: CHASMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
TAGS: BENC, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006